

IOWANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Iowans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Iowa. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Iowa.

INCOME: IOWANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Iowa was \$47,304.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Iowa was \$45,671, a drop of 3.5 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN IOWA CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Iowa had 251,000 adults without insurance (8.9 percent).³
- In 2005, Iowa had 251,000 adults without insurance (8.6 percent).⁴
- Iowa had 46,562 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵ If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, Iowa will face a funding shortfall of 15,439,000.⁶

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN IOWA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Iowa was \$7,589.⁷ In 2005, it was \$11,541, a 52 percent increase.⁸
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Iowa was \$19,454.⁹ In 2005, it was \$23,012, an 18 percent increase.¹⁰
- Number of Iowans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 37,364¹¹
- Number of Iowans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 33,812¹²

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR IOWA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Iowa was \$1.432 a gallon.¹³
- Today the average cost of gas in Iowa is \$2.166 a gallon.¹⁴
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Iowa was \$2,138.¹⁵
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Iowa is \$3,234, \$1,096 (51.3 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁶

SOCIAL SECURITY: IOWANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Iowa – 545,990¹⁷
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Iowa – \$880¹⁸

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: IOWANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Iowans killed in Iraq – 33¹⁹
- Number of Iowans wounded in Iraq – 237²⁰
- Number of Iowans killed in Afghanistan – 1²¹
- Number of Iowans wounded in Afghanistan – 14²²
- Number of Veterans in Iowa – 265,960²³

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING IOWA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 263 estates in Iowa paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²⁴
- Only 76 estates in Iowa will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁵
- In contrast, 107,000 workers in Iowa would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁶

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN IOWA IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in Iowa per 100,000 people in 2000 – 266.4²⁷
- Number of Violent Crimes in Iowa per 100,000 people in 2005 – 291.3²⁸
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 5,144,949²⁹
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 3,420,057³⁰

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST IOWANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Iowans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Iowa residents each received an average of \$2,133 in tax cuts, while middle class Iowa residents received only \$380.³¹
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Iowa residents will receive an average of \$25,360 in tax cuts, while middle class Iowa residents will only receive \$683.³²
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Iowa residents will each receive an average of \$51,413 in tax cuts, while middle class Iowa residents will only receive \$822.³³

The richest Iowans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Iowans received 5.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.9 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- But, in 2006, the richest Iowans will get 19.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.9 percent of the tax cut.³⁵
- And, in 2010, the richest Iowans will get 38.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.6 percent of the tax cut.³⁶

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Iowans.

- In 2010, the richest Iowans will receive an average of \$5,984 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Iowans will be getting over 35.7 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁷
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Iowans will receive an average of \$90 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 10.9 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁸

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